

Protecting the last, best open spaces

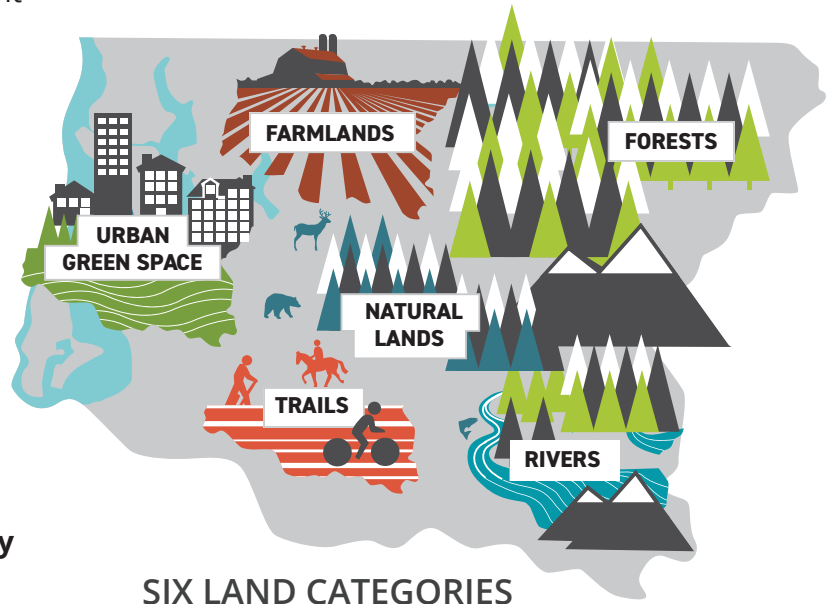
KING COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION
INITIATIVE

A regional partnership that includes King County, cities, farmers, businesses, and environmental leaders has developed a strategy to **permanently protect 65,000 acres** of the last, most important natural lands and urban greenspaces by 2050, before they are lost forever. Acting quickly can **save us \$14 billion dollars**.

GOALS

- Offer more **equitable access** to open space
- Protect natural lands that **filter air and water pollutants**, and provide recreational opportunities
- Preserve **farmland** and **community gardens** that support equitable access to healthy, locally grown food
- Protect river corridors that promote **healthy salmon habitat** and **reduce flood risks**
- Contribute to the post-pandemic **economic recovery** by supporting the **outdoor recreation economy**.

65,000 ACRES
TO SUSTAIN US



PRODUCING MULTIPLE BENEFITS

Action now to protect open spaces will provide multiple benefits for all living things that call King County home today and to those who will come after us.

Create
equitable access
to greenspace



Absorb and
store CO₂



Filter air and
water pollution



Reduce
flood risks



Increase
recreational
opportunities



Protect
and restore
habitat



Strengthen
local food
economy



FOCUSING ON EQUITY

Access to open space provides **physical, mental, environmental, and community health benefits**. Green space is critical public infrastructure.

Yet here in King County, about **500,000 people** – more than 20 percent of our population – do not live within walking distance to greenspace, parks, or trails. Historic and persistent patterns of underinvestment driven by racism have compounded negative impacts for people experiencing poverty and for Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color.

That's why we're prioritizing land conservation where there is the greatest need for green space. We worked directly with community to ensure the initiative's goals were shaped by lived experience. We are targeting land that provides close-to-home recreation access and offers refuge from climate impacts. We are conserving agricultural areas and working forests, providing technical assistance and resources to new farmers so our region's agricultural economy is more inclusive, supportive, and dynamic. And we are working with tribal partners and other key stakeholders to protect salmon habitat.

SAVING PLACES WE LOVE

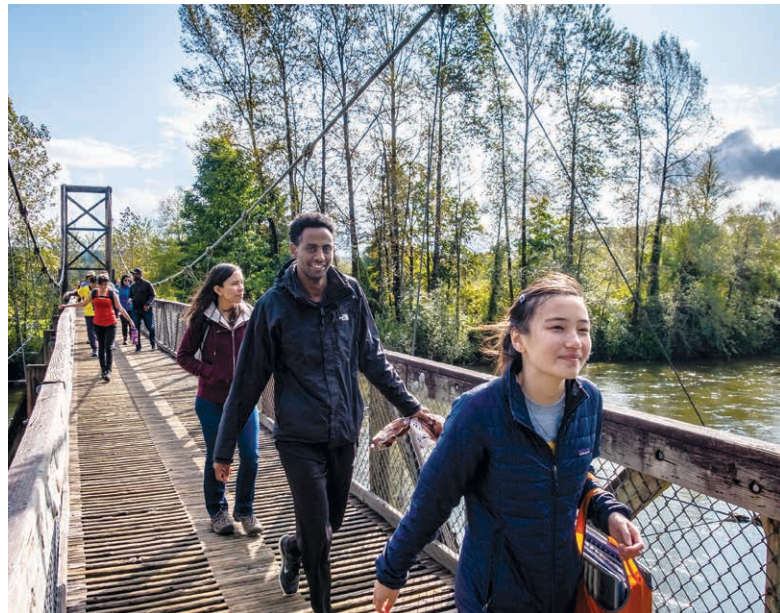
The natural landscape has defined this place since time immemorial and contributes to the quality of life we enjoy today.

Our population continues to increase – with another 180,000 people expected to move to King County over the next decade – and the cost of land is rising as well. We must **accelerate our efforts** before the last, best places are lost forever.

MAXIMIZING CONSERVATION FUTURES

With the help of many partners, we have had great conservation success. But there is more work to do to finish the job and we are running out of time. Harnessing every tool at our disposal to its maximum potential will be needed to accomplish this vision.

Enacted by the state Legislature 50 years ago, 14 counties rely on the Conservation Futures levy program to permanently protect open space and help local government access state and federal grant dollars. Unfortunately, this premier tool is not working as envisioned. We support our partners and fellow counties in working to find a legislative solution that restores Conservation Futures to its full potential.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

kingcounty.gov/land-conservation

GET INVOLVED

ConservationFuturesWA.org